

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated February 24, 2005 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 20050220). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 18 are currently pending in this application. Claims 5 through 16 have been previously withdrawn from consideration. Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the subject matter of Claim 3 being substantially incorporated into Claim 1. Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 12, including withdrawn Claims 5 through 12, have been amended to correct formal errors, place the claims in better form and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. Also new Claims 17 and 18 have been added, and ultimately depend from elected Claim 1. The subject matter of the processes claimed in new dependent Claims 17 and 18 relate to at least the elected Species I. Entry of the amendments to the Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 12, and entry of new Claims 17 and 18, are respectfully requested.

Additional Amendments:

The Specification and the Abstract of the Disclosure have been amended to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention. Entry of the amendments to the Specification and to the Abstract of the Disclosure is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,368,923 to Huang, hereinafter the Huang '923 patent, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,337,289 to Narwankar et al., hereinafter the Narwankar '289 patent.

The Office Action states that Claims 2 through 4 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent

form including the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 20050220, page 4).

Therefore, in response, Claims 1 and 2 have been rewritten in independent form, with independent Claim 1 substantially including the recitations of Claim 3, and Claim 2 being rewritten in independent form including substantially the recitations of Claim 1. Also, Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the subject matter of Claim 3 being substantially incorporated into Claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully believed that Claims 1 and 2, now rewritten in independent form, are in condition for allowance, and dependent Claim 4 and new dependent Claims 17 and 18 are in condition for allowance.

Therefore, withdrawal of rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 2 and 4, consideration and allowance of new Claims 17 and 18, and consideration and allowance of withdrawn Claims 5 through 16, are respectfully requested.

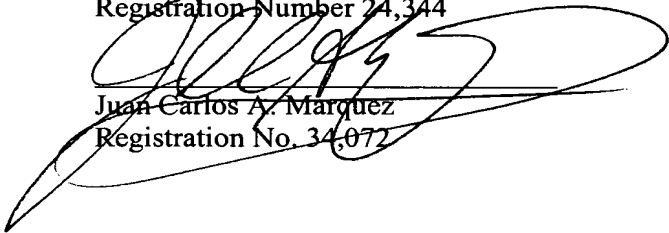
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejection in the Office Action relies. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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